



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P. O. Box 200901

Helena, MT 59620-0901

(406) 444-2544

Website: www.deq.mt.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-11-14

May 31, 2011

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: City of Hamilton

FACILITY NAME: City of Hamilton Wastewater Treatment Plant

FACILITY LOCATION: 1001 New York Avenue, Ravalli County

RECEIVING WATER: Bitterroot River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0020028

The City of Hamilton wastewater treatment plant is an extended aeration system consisting of an oxidation ditch with rotating brush aerators, three clarifiers, a chlorine contact basin and two aerobic digesters. The plant was constructed in 1984. In 1998 the plant was upgraded by constructing a return activated sludge and waste activated sludge pumping station; installing baffles in the secondary clarifiers to increase capacity; adding an anoxic selector basin at the entrance to the oxidation ditch; and adding a dissolved air flotation tank. New *E. coli* and nutrient effluent limits and increased monitoring requirements are included in the permit. Routine monitoring will be performed before the wastewater is discharged to the Bitterroot River.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new

Public Notice No.: MT-11-14

May 31, 2011

Page 2 of 2

permits or increase permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, et al., CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. The DEQ finds that the issuance of this proposed permit does not conflict with the order because it is not a new permit and the renewed permit will reduce the pollutant load to the Bitterroot River.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS June 30, 2011. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS June 30, 2011 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail Noelle Uncles or Barb Sharpe at WPBPublicNotices@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER PROTECTION BUREAU
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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
RM 171 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
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